

Unit 4: Building a Vulnerability Assessment

Defining Objectives and Scope

Setting goals for a VA

- What decisions need to be supported?
 - Addressing a mandate or institutional mission?
 - Weighing the threat of CC against other stressors?
 - Prioritization of species / habitats?
- Who are the stakeholders?



A few steps to help identify objectives

1. Write down all the concerns you hope to address after the VA is complete
 - What would be nice to know?
 - What's most important to know?
2. Translate concerns into succinct objectives

2. Translating concerns succinctly

- Use directional language when possible
 - Maximize the extent assessed within park boundary
 - Minimize cost of assessment

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 - ~~– Optimize the assessment to inform management decisions~~
 - Maximize number of targets addressed in the VA
 - Minimize uncertainty and/or identify areas where uncertainty will influence decisions

A few steps to identify objectives

3. Separate ends from means to establish fundamental objectives
 - Acquire downscaled data on exposure for Alaskan NP
 - Means objective

A few steps to identify objectives

3. Separate ends from means to establish fundamental objectives

- Acquire downscaled data on exposure for Alaskan NP
 - Why?
- More exposure = more species response and increased need for mgmt
 - Why manage and monitor?
- Because NPS is obliged to “conserve the scenery...and the wild life therein” (NPS Organic Act)
 - FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE

A few steps to identify objectives

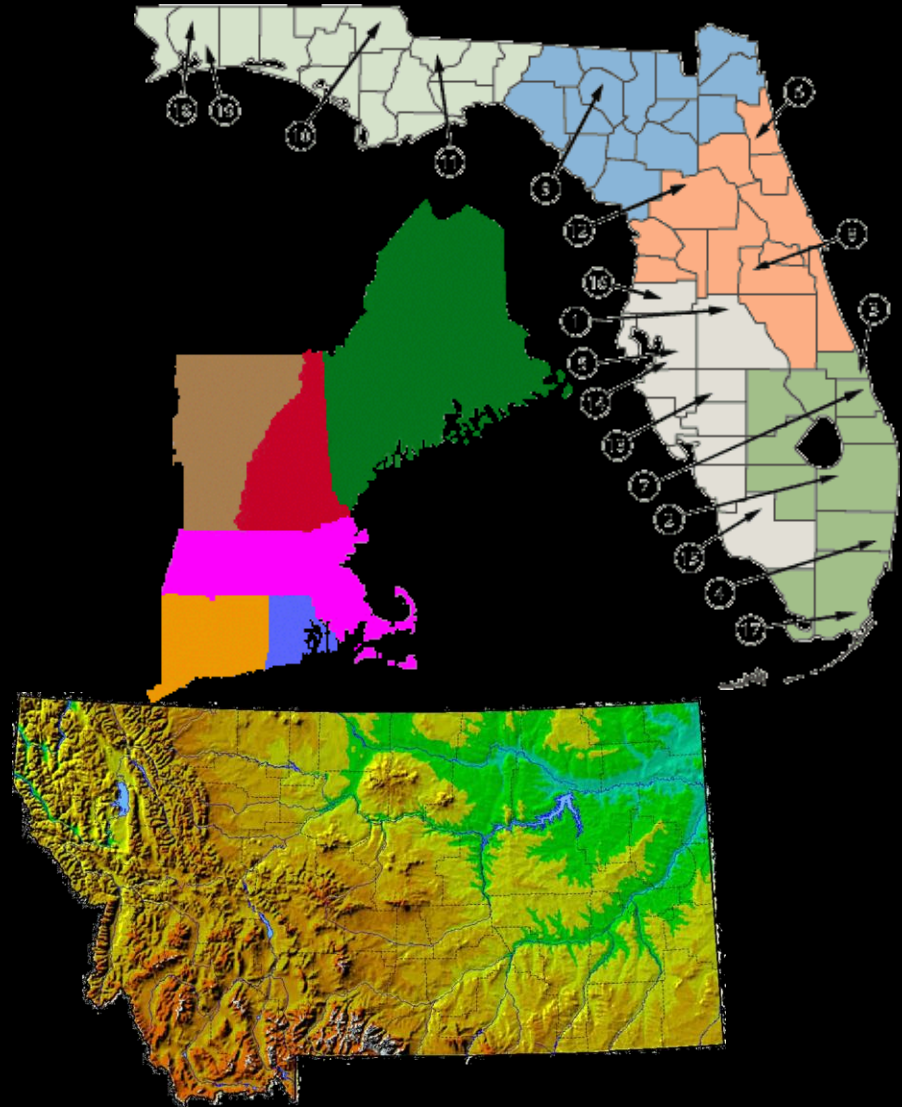
4. Clarify what is meant by each objectives
 - Objective: Develop a VA for species and habitats of greatest concern
 - Why those species?
 - What kind of VA?

Determine spatial and temporal scale

Spatial extent

Spatial resolution

Time frames



Select assessment approach

Methods

Tools

Timeline

